

MEMORIES

(This article appeared in the **Clipper** in 1950. We published it as written.)

A slaughterhouse that existed a century ago on the later site of Clara's Coffee Shop had a fascinating history. In 1879 it was moved across the street to be attached to the Myrick house and be used as a tinsmith shop. In 1932 it was detached and moved to its present location. You know it as Freeman's. In its framework there is said to be a wooden brace that came from the first meeting house in Duxbury.

Our story begins in 1846 when Benjamin Prior, 90, is talking to George Bradford. At the time Bradford was living in a house owned by Ezra Weston (later occupied by Harry Baldwin). Bradford's curiosity was aroused when Weston sent workmen to remove a piece of joist from one of the out-buildings. "Why," said Prior, "that was a piece of the first church in Duxbury."

"And where was that?" Bradford asked.

"Right down there on the Thomas Chandler farm. And there is another piece in the barn."

Bradford found the other piece, and when he built a slaughterhouse a few years later, he used it in the framework. Now a word about the Myricks.

J. F. Myrick was the son of Capt. William Myrick who lived in a hilltop house on Bay View Rd. Some remember this dwelling as the "Blodgett house." It was recently sold to John Marshall. The creek running through Mr. Marshall's yard was called "Myrick's Creek."

In 1870 J. F. Myrick then living in Boston, married Caroline Burnham, daughter of the T.O.H. Burnham who owned the Parker House. They came to Duxbury in

1873, bought some land at Hall's Corner and built a house. J. F. Myrick, who died in 1903 - 3 years after his wife - left a son, James W. H. Myrick, who died last year, and identical twin daughters, Grace and Gertrude, who still occupy the family house. In 1932, during the alterations made at Hall's Corner, the house was moved back, the tinsmith shop was detached and moved and the downstairs was rented to operators of a barber shop and beauty parlor.

That's the story of the slaughterhouse that became a tinsmith shop and finally a variety store.

LOTS FOR SALE

(This ad appeared in the **Boston Post** in 1905.)

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From the June 28, 1912, issue of the **Boston Post**, the "Observant Citizen" writes: "I hear that Prof. Francke of Harvard is enthusiastically looking forward to a most beautiful gift soon expected from Germany, a present from the governor of the duchy of Brunswick to Harvard University. It is a bronze cast of the celebrated lion monument, erected in Castle Square, Brunswick, by Henry the Lion in the year 1166."